Informant:	**LMP-S1**	**Spanish**
Date:	**10-01-00-Full Transcript**	**Mini DV**
Interviewers:	**C. Hernandez, M. Jones, P. Polk**	
Transcriber:	**?**	
Revised:	**?**	

J: We would like to ask him about kinds of illnesses that he treats with herbs and ritual, and also I'll be asking him about certain plants: whether he uses them or not. So, that's what we'd like to talk about today.

C: On this day, he would like to begin by asking you what type of problems, what type of-

S1: Illnesses.

C: Illnesses you cure. And-ok. What type of ailments he treats? And then, what else?

P: And particular herbs that he uses.

C: And herbs or medicinal plants that you in particular use.

S1: (Something very inaudible).

P: What about for a stomachache? What does he do for a stomachache?

C: For example, to begin, what would you use for a stomachache?

S1: For a stomachache, what I do is give a drinkable remedy, which is made from a sweet pineapple (***piña***). Peeled and cut into little pieces. Blended with an egg (***huevo***) and with olive oil (***aceite de oliva***), salt grains (***granitos de sal***), and a stream of lemon (***limon***) in the form of a cross.

C: As a cross? The stream is poured like this?

S1: Yes. The lemon in the form of a cross.

C: Aha.

S1: A little stem of rue (***ruda***). That is for the pain.

C: And all of it is liquefied?

S1: I liquefy it and give it to drink.

C: How much olive oil? Like a little bit-

S1: No, a little bottle

C: A bottle?

S1: Yes.

C: Ok.

S1: A small bottle, not a big one.

C: A small bottle. He says that, for example, for a stomachache, he takes a pineapple. Like a whole pineapple and he takes the skin off, cuts it up, puts in the blender with a stem of rue (***ruda***).

P: Rue.

C: Like a small bottle, he said, of olive oil. A pinch of salt. Lemon, you have to cut it and you have to pour it in like, you have to make the cross. You have to go, you know, with the lemon. And that's it. That's what he uses. Then, he blends it. Oh, and one egg (***huevo***). One egg. He blends it and gives that to the person to drink.

S1: To drink for a something like three days.

C: For about three days, the person has to-only during breakfast?

S1: At any hour.

C: Any time. But they only have to drink that whole thing-

S1: Yes, but by cups. A cup now, another one three hours later, like that.

C: So, for three days, that person has to drink that, like a little cup here, a cup there, you know.

P: What about for cough? Coughing?

S1: For cough, I give them eucalyptus (***eucalipto***) with broncolin.

C: Broncolin? What is broncolin?

S1: Broncolin is a remedy from Guatemala.

C: A remedy from Guatemala?

S1: Yes. It's like lemon (***limon***) with honey (***miel***).

C: Lemon with honey?

S1: Lemon with honey.

C: For cough, he gives a concoction of eucalyptus and broncolin, which is a Guatemalan herbal remedy. He said it's basically lemon and honey.

P: And nervousness?

S1: Nerves.

C: Nerves.

S1: Nerves.

C: Nervousness.

S1: Nervousness. What I give them is like drinkable remedies from ***siete asares.*** They are orange leaves (***ojas de naranja***).

C: ***Siete asares*** are oranges leaves?

S1: Yes. Orange leaves and you add like a pinch of sugar (***azucar***). And you add like a pinch of cinnamon (***canela***). That is for the nerves.

C: Ok. ***Siete asares*** and orange leaves? Or are the ***siete asares*** are orange leaves?

S1: The ***siete asares*** is a flower and I give them the flower (***flor***), the orange flower (***flor de naranja***). I give them the flower and the leaf.

C: For nerves, he uses ***siete asares***. I don't what that's called-***siete asares*** in English. I don't have a name, but it's basically like a flower. Like-and he mixes that with orange leaves and flowers. Some cinnamon. They have to drink that. They make a tea? They prepare a tea?

S1: Yes, and I also give them-it's prepared as a tea-and I also give them lettuce leaves (***hojas de lechuga***).

C: Lettuce leaves?

S1: Yes.

C: Lettuce leaves? From the green and fat lettuce?

S1: Yes.

C: He also does-then that would have to be as a tea?

S1: It's also cooked.

C: Cooked?

S1: Cooked.

C: He says that the first remedy that I gave you, was prepared tea. So, you do it in tea form. And then, he also recommends lettuce, lettuce tea. Like a lettuce, like a big head of lettuce or something. You just make tea out of it first though.

P: K. What about colic?

C: Colic. ***Colico***. When, for example, babies get colic? When they can't pass gas?

S1: Oh, yes. They are given Castilian rose (***rosa de castilla***). A tea of Castilian rose with lemon verbena (***cedron***).

C: Lemon verbena (***cedron***).

S1: And anise (***anis***) made into pieces and common anise.

C: He gives them Castilian rose…

S1: Pieces of anise.

C: Anise.

P: Oh, anise.

C: What was the other thing called?

S1: Lemon verbena (***cedron***). ***Cedron***.

C: Lemon verbena.

S1: Leaves of lemon verbena.

C: Leaves of lemon verbena.

P: Ok.

S1: Yeah.

S1: Leaves of lemon verbena.

C: As a tea?

S1: As a tea.

C: They make a tea with all three of those things.

S1: You give it to them, since they are very little, with a nipple with a rag.

C: So, for babies you give it to them, like little drops. You know.

P: How long do you brew the tea?

C: How long do you brew the tea?

S1: Like some fifteen minutes.

C: Like fifteen minutes.

P: Ok.

C: Can I ask a question?

P: Sure.

C: So, then the tea, because they have explained to me in different occasions, that to brew tea, when one is recommended tea, they must boil the water and then add the leaves or the thing for the tea. Apart.

S1: I put it all together.

C: All together? My mother makes it like that also.

S1: Yes.

C: I was just asking him about tea. Some people say that you boil the water first and then you add what you are going to do. You cover it and let it simmer. Then, you take it-but my mom and he does it the same way. He says that you brew it all together. He puts the water to boil with the stuff in it.

P: So far, do any of the illnesses we have talked about, are there rituals that go along with using the herbs?

S1: I have another remedy for when a child is too sick, and the doctors here can't even cure him. You get a baby tub (***palangan***).

C: ***Palangan***? Is that like a little bottle for-

S1: No. A tub where babies are bathed.

C: Yes.

S1: You add pig lard (***manteca de marrano***). You add plenty of lemon (***limon***), cut in the form of a cross.

C: Cut in the form of a cross.

S1: You add plenty of lemon and you add a lot of lard. You add two bottles of alcohol and two bottles of florida water (***agua florida***). You lay the child in that tub. It's called ***manteca lavada***.

C: ***Manteca lavada***.

S1: Yes, ***manteca lavada*** because it has lemon, only lemon. Then, water and alcohol. That cleans children, and then the children's' fever will go down immediately. A temperature of 110° or 107°.

C: When kids are very feverish, and doctors, he says, can't even take care of them or cure them, he says, you take a like a big-just like a big little tub, like a little-anything, any kind of container where you can put a baby. You put lard, lard, lemon. You have to cut a lot of lemon. You have to cut in cross. Pour it in cross. Alcohol and florida cologne. You put it all in there. Then, you take the baby and kind of wash the baby with it. Apply it to the baby.

S1: It will go away in seconds.

C: In seconds he says, the fever goes away.

P: Wonderful.

S1: What he'd say?

C: That it's wonderful.

S1: Ok. This is for when they have fevers.

C: Fevers. He wanted to know if there is any ritual or ceremony that is done in addition to taking teas for the illnesses that we have just discussed?

S1: No, for that I do not do anything.

C: For that-

S1: Because I am the one that they call and is told what to do. No.

C: Nothing.

S1: I don't do any of that. I do something when someone is very sick at their house. Yes, I have a vigil. Yes, but from there nothing happens. He works. He tells me what He is going to do.

C: I asked him if there was any type of ritual that was used in any of the remedies that we just talked about and he said no. Because he receives the answers, you know. He is given

the answers. So, he is told what to do. But he says that the only time does do ritual is if he has a person is sick at home. Then he'll do a little ritual, if they are so sick at home.

P: Alright. What about for earache? How does he treat that?

C: How do you take care of earache? Bad ear?

S1: With ***lixerina***.

C: ***Lixerina***.

S1: ***Lixerina***. With a plug of rue (***ruda***).

C: Plug of rue?

S1: Yes. I take the ***lixerina*** and with a little plug I do this to the rue.

C: The rue.

S1: And it is made into this.

C: What is ***lixerina***?

S1: ***Lixerina*** is like an oil.

C: Like oil? How he treats it is with a type of oil named ***lixerina*** and ***ruda***, rue. So, what he does is put the oil in and then you take the rue and you mash it up into like a little ball to make a covering. So, he puts it into the ear.

P: Indigestion.

C: Indigestion. Indigestion. How do you treat indigestion?

S1: When a person is like indigested when he's sick from his stomach? Like ***empachado***?

C: I want to see. Indigestion. What do you mean by indigestion? Like if they have an ***empacho***?

P: Ok, that's one. ***Empacho***. Explain ***empacho*** to me and how you treat ***empacho***.

C: Ok. Can you explain what ***empacho*** is?

S1: ***Empacho*** is something that you ate and that caused an upset stomach and remains stuck. Like eating a hamburger, and that burger gives you an upset stomach. It remains stuck or is very sticky. Because of that it sticks to your gut or intestine. It comes out like rotten. That prevents food from going through and then, you don't get food. What happens is that you get diarrhea, vomit and body pain.

C: He says ***empacho*** is like if you eat something and it's not good for you. For example, if you eat a hamburger, he said, and it sticks to your intestine. It just stays there and starts to kind of like get bad, go bad in your insides. After a while you can't even pass food, you can't even digest food anymore. It just passes and you end up having diarrhea and diarrhea until you're so sick you're like bedridden.

That's ***empacho***.

P: K. How does he treat that?

C: How do you fix ***empacho***? How do you cure ***empacho***?

S1: I add olive oil again. A raw potato, without washing, only with doing this: removing the dirt. You cut it very finely. You add lemon and you add a little bit of salt. You add a few little leaves of rue and ***albaca***. Then, you liquefy it and then you strain it and then you drink it. Before giving them the remedy, I make them lay down face up, and I rub them here. Yes?

C: Going down?

S1: Yes. If it's a woman, you pull the skin off like this or like this. Then you pull the man only with these because a man could burst.

C: Really?

S1: Yes. The sides-

C: But you can pull the woman like this?

S1: Yes, like this. You touch their stomach with this hand and do this.

C: With the right hand?

S1: You put it on top of the stomach and do it like this, you make it hollow. If you do it on the other side, you are doing it wrong. The other one is like this. After that, I lay them down here and I give them three pulls here. At the Colums of the ribs, you get the skin and pull it like this.

C: At the rib?

S1: Yes. Then, you-

C: You pull the skin. Like this?

S1: Yes. When a person is ***empachada***, you rub them here because they have some bumps here.

C: On the hand?
S1: Yes.

C: It's a lot, it's a lot.

P: Complicated.

C: Let's see if I can remember. Let me just tell you, first of all, before he gives them- before giving them the remedy, you rub them?

S1: Yes. With oil.

C: With oil. What type of oil?

S1: It can be any kind of oil.

C: Before he gives them the tonic remedy, he massages them. How he does it, there's two different ways of massaging. Like he showed that if you are going to massage a woman, you can use your whole hand and you massage the sides like this and like this. You massage from top to down and from the sides to the insides of your belly. Like this and like this. If you are treating a woman you can use both your hands, but if you are treating a man, he says that you have to use your thumbs because otherwise you might rip his belly. You might pop his belly, so you have to go like this and then, you know, like that. He says, "What you have to do is you have to take a potato and you have to wash it." It's a raw potato. You just wash it. Clean it real well and you cut it really finely. You just chop it as fine as you can. You take oil, olive oil. You take lemon. You take ***ruda*** and ***alba aca*** (or ***albaca***?). I don't know. ***Ruda*** is rue. ***Alba aca***, I'm not sure of its English name. You put all of that together and the person is to drink that. How much oil do you use?

S1: For that, one bottle.

C: A bottle. A small bottle. Olive oil is used to drink all of this. So, your basically just drinking the oil with the potato and the rue and the ***alba aca*** and the lemon in it.

P: How often?

C: How-

S1: The treatment lasts three days. There are people that I rub and will feel better quickly.

C: It's a tree day treatment. He has to massage them like three days and then they have to take that drink.

P: Three days before they drink, they have massage.

C: No, they have a massage day one and then you take the drink. Massage day two, take the drink. Massage day three, take the drink. Another thing that he said that I forgot to

mention is that along with the stomach massage, he has them lie down on their stomachs. Then, he pulls the skin by the ribs, pulls it up and then he does a massage up here, right on the neck area.

P: Ok.

C: How does the back massage go?

S1: It's like this. Lie on your stomach and I'll pull here. Here, here. Yes.

C: He just pulls the skin.

S1: Like this.

C: You said three times?

S1: Yes.

C: He does that three times.

S1: From here and stop. Then, here where the tail is.

C: So, you do that from the middle of the back to the tailbone. He does that. 1,2,3,4 and then they take the drink.

P: Are there other kinds of indigestion? And, if so, how does he treat them?

C: Can I ask you what are your definitions of indigestion? Just so I can better explain them in Spanish.

P: Just upset stomach. What use to be called dyspepsia. Gas.

C: Ok. How would you treat another kind of indigestion? Do you know of other kinds of indigestion? How would you treat them?

S1: All that I am able to cure is stomachaches, ***empachos***, and something like using lemon. With something very strong, they have to go to the hospital.

C: Ok.

S1: What I can cure is, for example, if you have the flu I will give you a remedy. If you have an illness in your bones, again I am able to give a remedy for the bones. And if you are experiencing like a lot of stress and depression, again I can take away that stress.

C: Ok.

S1: People that are victims of witchcraft. They haven't eaten in days. They are anemic. They don't want to talk. They don't speak. I purge.

C: Ok.

S1: I make them for good luck, for work.

C: Ok. He was just-I just asked him what other types of indigestion he treats and he said that he treats stomachaches and ailments like-anything that is beyond what he can do, like if it's really bad stuff and problems, he just tells them to go to the doctor. But he treats stomachaches, ***empacho***, cough, other things like that. Or somebody's been bewitched and or they have anemia and they just can't walk, can't talk. He treats that. Or if you need help with work, or luck. Those are the things that he does. So, let me ask him again. Then, how do you cure a stomachache and problems with gas?

S1: With gases? I just give them some capsules to drink.

C: Capsules.

S1: But they are natural. They are made from herbs, from (something inaudible), like ***cola de caballo***. That is what I give them.

C: What was the first herb that you mentioned?

S1: ***Cola de caballo***.

C: ***Cola de caballo***?

S1: And ***pelo de elote.***

C: ***Pelo de elote.***

S1: Yes, that is what I do.

C: He has these capsules that he recommends when people have gas, but the capsules are herbal, which contain ***cola de caballo*** and corn silks (***pelo de elote***). Let me see. I have the names of those in here somewhere.

P: All right. Well, we can find them later.

C: Yeah. Cornsilks (***pelo de elote***) and well, I don't know the ***cola de caballo***, but you know. And stomachaches?

S1: Not many come for stomachaches.

C: Too many people don't come with stomachaches, he says.

S1: They come with headaches, with eye aches, with earaches, sick, that they don't feel like going to work, a lot of that. Not a lot of stomach aches.

C: He says that he doesn't have to-

S1: I mostly get children with stomachaches.

C: Most of his patients with stomach problems will be kids. But not people. Grownups come in with headaches, eye aches, earaches, and those type of problems. Are those problems more related to nervous problems or stress?

S1: Which ones?

C: The headaches, the eye aches.

S1: Oh yes, that comes from much pressure at work. That they treat you bad. That your husband gives you a bad life. Or sometimes your mother treats you bad. Or a son treats his mother bad. That comes from all that.

C: He says-

S1: From problems like caused by an accident.

C: He says that-

S1: It also comes from taking a bath and not drying their hair.

C: They don't dry their hair?

S1: Yes. They don't dry their hair and that causes something called-

C: Sinusitis.

S1: Sinusitis, but that is mucus that drips down here. I can cure that with chicken oil (***aceite de gallina***).

C: Really? Can you tell me how?

S1: Yes. I do that with a Creole chicken (***gallina criolla***). We remove all the fat that it has on one side of the leg. We remove it. We put it in a pan and it is made like rinds (***chicharron***) and it releases oil. Then, we send for two ***chichitas***. They are something like little yellow apples. We cook them together with-

C: With the oil.

S1: With the oil. The ***chichitas*** are ***chichitas*** of Esquipulas Desert because they only grow there.

C: Chichitas from where?

S1: Esquipulas Desert. They are yellow.

C: Esquipulas Desert?

S1: Yes. Lord Esquipulas.

C: Lord Esquipulas?

S1: Yes. They are cut and then you add a spoonful chicken oil. You let it boil in the pan. You get it with a syringe and the runny nose goes away. Then you put the syringe through the nose.

C: Oh, the nose is all runny.

S1: Yes. It goes all inside.

C: Warm?

S1: Warm. And if not, you can use a piece of cotton and then you squeeze it.

C: Oh.

S1: And that is filled up to here. You begin feeling something bitter coming down here. Later, everything that is bad comes out.

C: Everything that is bad comes out.

S1: Yes.

C: He says he knows how to treat sinusitis. And being as that both you and I have had problems with it, I said, "Well, what do you?" He says that he takes a creole chicken, ***gallina criolla***. And the fat around its thighs, he takes it and fries it like if you fried bacon. Then, you take the oil from that and he calls people from Guatemala and has them over these fruits called ***chichitas***. He says they're kind of like little yellow apples, like little yellow fruit. He takes the oil and puts in the ***chichitas*** and he lets them cook for a while. Then, he takes that oil and you put it in a syringe without the needle. So, that you use the syringe as like a dropper or you can take a cotton ball and dip it into that oil. Then, release it drop by drop while it's still warm. So, your head has to be back and then you release. You drop it into the nose and then he says, "Afterwards, you start to feel something really bitter come down your throat. Next thing you know, he says, all the-I guess the dirtiness or the stuff that is stuck and is affecting you, starts to come out.

P: He said that the herb that he uses come from somebody in Guatemala.

C: It's not an herb, it's a little apple.

P: Oh, a little apple.

C: A type of little apple.

S1: They use the Lord Esquipulas fruit-

C: Lord Esquipulas.

S1: It is the day of the Lord Esquipulas when one goes over there to see if there are some.

C: You can only find this fruit there.

S1: They are not here nor in Mexico.

C: They call it ***chichitas*** from Senor Esquipulas, Mr. Esquipulas because that's the name of the place where they find it. You can only get it there. So, he has to get it from there. You know, to use it.

P: Yeah.

C: In order to use it. But, it's like fruit, right?

S1: Yes, it is. Just a woman's little breast.

C: He said that it's like the breast of-it's called ***chichitas*** because kind of like the breast of a woman. Like a little fruit like that.

S1: Yes, they are yellow.

C: He says they're bitter.

S1: Like a pear or something like that.

C: He says it's kind of like a pear or something like that.

S1: Could you please leave me alone for a moment?

C: No problem. He says-

S1: Could you wait a little while because the lady won't want to go inside.

C: He says that he has to see a patient.

P: Oh, ok.

C: Would you mind holding on. If she sees the camera she won't want to be attended. So, we should leave here?

S1: Yes, because I'm going to give her a consultation.

C: Ok. So, he's going to give her a consultation. If maybe we could move, relocated for a second.

P: Ok. What is he saying?

C: He was just telling me that he only tells this information to you and Polk. Because he says that he doesn't to talk to anybody because he says that sometimes doctors and sort of like spies, they come in trying to find out information about what he does. Because they can't cure and he can. And Chinese people ask for too much acupuncture meaning that it's too expensive. So. He was just kind of laughing it off, you know.

P: The woman who was just in here, what was wrong with her? And how is he treating her?

C: Oh, the woman that was here. Your patient? You said that she had bone pain. This woman, was this the one that felt pain in her bones?

S1: When?

C: Right now. You just told me this woman feels pain from her bones.

S1: No. I told him if his bones hurt.

C: Oh, to him. No. Like earlier, I had thought that he said that lady had bone pains, a lot of bone pains. He referred to you. He said, "Do you have a lot of…"

P: No. Tell him I pulled the muscles in my lower back a couple of weeks ago.

C: Oh. He had problems with the muscles of his lower back. As if he pulled the tendons or he pulled the muscles. So, that is why he is lying down.

S1: Oh.

P: How would he treat that?

C: How would you cure something like that now that we are…?

S1: That is cured by taking baths with yucca leaves (***hoja de yucca***).

C: Yucca leaves? Where do you find yucca leaves here?

S1: There is yucca in El Salvador and Guatemala.

C: Well, if you can get somebody that's coming town from El Salvador or Guatemala, you can ask them to send you yucca leaves from the yucca plants. The leaves. And you have to bathe yourself in yucca, yucca leaves.

S1: I also cure with this. Look, I am telling you all of my secrets.

C: He says he's giving us his secrets.

S1: Look, I cure with this.

C: He cures with this.

S1: Look.

C: Oh, like flower of ***ayote*** (pumpkin)?

S1: No, bell flower (***flor de campana***).

C: Bell flower. It's a flower.

S1: Yes. This-

C: What do you keep it in?

S1: Is put-

C: No wonder.

S1: It's (inaudible) and holy water (***agua bendita***), and florida water (***agua florida***), and myrtle oil (***aceite arrayan***) and oak tree oil (***aceite de roble***).

C: Oil of what?

S1: Of ***arrayan.***

C: ***Arrayan.***

S1: Oil of ***roble.***

C: ***Roble. Roble.***

S1: And stick oil (***aceite de palo***).

C: And stick oil.

S1: Yes.

C: This has three different types of oil.

S1: And this is what cures.

C: But the flower is what cures.

S1: If you have pain, it takes the pain away.

C: If you have pain, this takes the pain away. It's got alcohol, oh, no, no. It doesn't have alcohol, right?

S1: Uh-huh.

C: Florida water. That flower of melon (?). Blessed water. Holy water. The little flowers. It's ***flor de campana***. I've seen this stuff before. It's a really good flower.

S1: It's over there.

C: Yeah, it's all wet. He put three different types of oil: myrtle oil, oil of-

S1: Of ***roble*** and stick oil.

C: ***Roble***. Oil of ***roble*** and stick-

S1: This is what cures.

C: That little juice, that little juice. And where do you get holy water from? Or how do they make it?

S1: From the church.

C: From the church?

S1: Yes, I do not buy water from the company because that's a lie.

C: Yes, he doesn't buy his holy water from the companies, the distributors. He just gets it from like the-

S1: This also gets rid of headaches and sinusitis.

C: Oh.

S1: And you get it like this. If you had a chest pain right now, it would go away.

C: Really? He's that even takes the headaches, and sinusitis-a pain. He does this, he takes it like he just did right now. Rubs it into his scalp. If you have that right now, he rubs it in and-

S1: It can also be applied to the ***canillas*** (wing bone or long bone) and all over the body, except right here.

C: You put it on all parts of the body, except right here.

S1: On the mouth.

C: Except the mouth.

S1: You can put it all over. Nothing happens, but it always stings. Then, all over the body.

C: You can put it on all your joints in all of your body and that will take the pain away. It's good for pain.

P: It's mainly pain, then?

C: Yeah. It treats the pain. The remedy is the flower.

P: The flower.

S1: The flower is the one that releases that.

C: The flower is the one that let's go-

S1: I have also have something else: if you are unable to sleep. Let's say that you suffer from insomnia. And you want to sleep. You apply, let me see.

C: He's giving me a recipe for insomnia.

S1: This here is the headboard, right? This is the headboard. You put the some bells right here. Let's say this is a bell.

C: Ok.

S1: Here the other and here the other. Like this on the headboard and you go to sleep.

C: Bells?

S1: Yes.

C: Bells. Ding-ding.

S1: No.

C: Those?

S1: These.

C: Oh. Ok. This is the headboard. You hang some that fall over here?

S1: No. Underneath.

C: Oh. Underneath?

S1: You do it like this. This is the bedspread.

C: Here.

S1: Ok? Let's say the head is right here. Then, you put it right here. It goes underneath the head.

C: Yes.

S1: Then, in a little while you fall into a deep sleep. Yes.

C: And you put it here, too? Or only here on this part?

S1: Only where the head is.

C: So, what he does is, for example, this is the bed. This is where your pillows are. This is where you head lays down. Your body is here. You take one of those flowers, you put it on your nape.

S1: You have to have them in the form of a cross.

C: Oh. You take one of those leaves-one of those flowers and another one, and you have to place it in the sign of the cross. Underneath the pillows or the area where you are going to sleep. You lay your head down and in a couple of minutes you are falling asleep. Insomnia-

S1: That kind of relaxes and loosens the body.

C: Yeah, it kind of relaxes you, loosens you up.

S1: It's a magic that that flower has.

C: It's a magic that that flower has.

P: Where do you get the flower?

C: Where do you get the flower?

S1: I have some at my house.

C: At your house? He says that he has them growing at his house.

S1: I have pink and I have white and yellow ones.

C: How beautiful. He has pink-

S1: Right now, they are like this. Beautiful and at night they release this beautiful aroma.

C: He says they're beautiful. Right now they are just hanging. He's got pink, white and yellow. They are just hanging. At night they have this beautiful fragrance. It's really nice.

P: When does he harvest those? When does he pick them to use in his medicine?

C: When do you have to plant them? And when do you have to cut them down? Is there an appropriate time?

S1: No. At my house, they bloom daily. This week passed and it's like this. I remove some because they only last two days. From there-

C: They are only there for two days?

S1: Yes.

C: So, when you see one-

S1: I cut them and I give them away. Or if not, I'll throw them away because I don't like them to be too dry.

C: Too dry.

S1: And when you cut it the more, it gives more. Yes.

C: I asked you because my grandmother has certain plants in her garden that she doesn't cut at night or in the middle of the day-

S1: Rue (***ruda***).

C: Rue.

S1: The flowers. Because they dry up.

C: Yes.

S1: But they don't dry up on me.

C: Yours don't dry up? Ah. I am asking about a particular time of day to cut it or a particular way. He said that he doesn't worry about any of that because people take that precaution because things become dry if you cut the flower or something, the plant will dry. But he said that doesn't happen to him. That's not the case for him. So, he can just cut it whenever. Those flowers that have a life expectancy of about two days, so he says about-you know, freshness, I guess. So, when he sees them, he cuts them. He cuts one. He cuts one what he needs, when he needs. He doesn't like to let them wilt or die, get like wrinkly. So, you know, before they start get that way or after that, he cuts them. He picks them out. He says that the more you cut it, the more it gives.

P: It grows.

C: Yeah.

P: Does he sell this product to customers?

C: Do you sell the oil that you make?

S1: Yes, I do sell it. Sometimes I just give it away.

C: Sometimes he sells it, and sometimes he just gives it away.

P: And other herbs that we've talked about?

S1: But you inspire some trust.

C: But he's only telling us how he does it.

P: Ok.

C: That's everything.

P: Other herbs that he's mentioned today for the illnesses we've talked about-where does he get those herbs? Does he use them fresh? Or dried?

C: Ok. I wanted to ask you about the other plants that we talked about today. For example, rue, camphor-did we talk about camphor?

S1: Maybe.

C: The things that we talked about. Where do you get them? Do you have them at your house? Or do you-

S1: I buy them and I plant them. Then, I have some at my house. Rosemary (***romero***) is good for giving baths. When a woman has cold uterus (***matriz***).

C: Cold. How do you know that the uterus is cold?

S1: They can't have children. Or they don't want to do anything that is sensual. You use rosemary to have very hot baths. Or sometimes their uterus has collapsed. And with that heat, it moves up. Yes. Using rosemary, ***alba aca***, and rue, you make a mixture with everything blended. You add lotions. Florida water. ***Siete machos***. Lemons (***limones***) cut in the form of a cross. Honey (***miel***). Canary feed (***comida de canario***). That is for people to come.

C: So people can come?

S1: If your business doesn't have clients.

C: First, you have to-

S1: Many things like ***alba aca***…

C: Romero, and ***alba aca***, and ***ruda***. Rue. Romero is rosemary. I don't know what ***alba aca*** is. But those are real good plants for luck. And baths. Rosemary is real good for women who have a cold-

P: Uterus. Womb.

C: Uterus. A cold womb. A cold womb. I asked, "What constitutes a cold womb?" And he said, "Like if they can't have children or they don't want to have relations with their husband." That type of thing constitutes a cold womb. So, what he recommends for them is that they take the rosemary and you have to have it in hot, hot water. So, if you mix rosemary with ***alba aca*** and rue together with some lotions, that is something that you do to attract people. Like if your business is failing, you're not having as many people, you do that to attract people. Oh, and it has lemon, also.

P: Alright.

(Side B)

LMP-S1 (11-19-00)

C: What do you use the snake for?

S1: It is good for many things. It can be used for cancer. People cut two fourths of the tail and two fourth of the head and they eat the middle of the cascabel (snake). They eat the middle as if it were fish. It can also be used to make people fight or to calm a violent person down.

C: When you say to cause a fight, is it you and that person or who?

S1: You put the person's name on the snake's skin and rub it with chile and it needs to be cut with scissors in little pieces. Everything is set around a black candle, the three chiles and also San Alejo's dust or dust from a cemetery's cross. If someone died a while back, the dust from that cross can be used for this. After all is set, you say bad words or bad feelings or anything bad you want that person to experience. If you want something violent or blood in a person's home, then you need to put the ashes of a dead person and shell of an indian chicken's egg. Also add the eggshell of a newborn chick because it still has the blood in it. Do not put it on a table or a corner but by the toilet because it needs to stay as far from you as possible. This causes a lot of destruction. Once it is burning you add vicks.

C: What effect does the vicks have

S1: It alters the person and it makes this person want to fight.

C: Do you use chiles a lot? In what other ways do you use them?

S1: Yes. I also use them to remove headaches. But only this type of chile. It is called chile bolita. It is very hot. You can eat and it will not bother the digestive system, but it is very strong. It can also be used to dominate a person.

C: Where do you get them?

S1: It comes from Guatemala and El Salvador. Someone brought seeds and planted them here. They gave me some and I also planted them here, so I have my own plant.

C: You have it in your house?

S1: No, it's here. It won't grow in my house because I have too much ruda and it won't let it grow. I also have another method of keeping somebody away. Take nine black candles, pray bad things backward (two turns around the candles), and blow on the candles. Then write the names of the couple you want to separate and put crosses around them. Also, cut black feathers from a pigeon into little pieces and put them all around. Write the name of the couple nine times on black papel de china. Fold it three folds one way, three the other way and one backwards. Put it all the way at the bottom of the candle and paint spray the glass of the candle completely black. After this, you need nine black ribbons to tie to the candle with a yellow crisantemon flower and then light the candle. Then you start saying, "Just like this flower dies the friendship between so and so will die as well. They should separate within 3,4 or 5 days". You keep repeating this and if you say 6,7 and you stay in 9, then in nine days they will separate.

C: Do you bring a lot of plants from Guatemala?

S1: No, because what they have in Guatemala can also be found here. There are many plants here that can be used for remedies. And another thing is that when a person is crossing the border, they are not allowed to bring anything here. I don't want to bring anything just to avoid problems. In Guatemala you can do anything unlike here. You can make fires and sacrifice chickens, but you can't do that here. In Guatemala people can also pull out dead bodies from the graves.

C: Eventually we need to make clippings from the plants you have here to give to a taxonomist to identify. Is this okay?

S1: It's okay.

C: Since you do not bring the plants from Guatemala, where do you obtain your plants?

S1: I tell my customers to bring them to me. For example depending on the job, if they need romero I tell them to bring romero or ruda. Did I give you a remedy to make someone stop drinking?

C: No.

S1: If a person drinks a lot because someone did witchcraft on him or her or he is just an addict, what I do is give this person a limpia comun. Then I give him blue salt, romero, ruda or alba aca to make baths. This is to relax the person. Once the person is sober, and he does not want to come here, I'll give him something to put in the food. This is called tripa del diablo. It is polvo and it comes from the tree called *tripa del diablo.* But if he comes here, I'll give him the limpia, and then I'll give him a purgante. Sometimes they tell me that they are going to take it home but I don't let them. They have to drink it here because I know that if they do not drink it here, they are not going to drink it at all. To make the drink I put three garlic heads, nine types of white liquor, romero, ruda, alba aca, tomillo, geranio I add drops of lemon and the shell of a purple onion. I also add olive oil and oil recino.

C: When he drinks the remedy, is there an instant result?

S1: The person needs to come drink it here for nine or three days. The person needs to come here because it has a very bad smell and it is very strong and this person is not going to drink it at home.

C: How do you know if the person is bewitched

S1: I could see it here in the glass. For example, when someone is sitting here like you and the glass (candle) stars to move is because there is something wrong. You don't have anything bad. You have a very bright future and you live happy. Therefore, I can see when a person is an alcoholic or was bewitched. If they were bewitched, with the treatment they get diarrhea and if they are just regular alcoholics, the worm inside them comes out. Here in the neighborhood lives a man named Rey. He was a powerful man in Guatemala, but when he came here he began to drink. He slept in the streets, always drunk. But one day he became our friend and I gave him two bottles of the remedy and he got cured. Now he is a great man even though he has lived a hard life. But, for any one who comes here to be cured, they must listen to what I say. If they have any alcohol when I said not to because they are taking the remedy, they will get poisoned. They won't die but they will get intoxicated.

C: Is alcoholism a problem for many that come here from Guatemala and try to make it here?

S1: It is a problem for Guatemalans, Mexicans and Salvadorians. If something bad happens they go drink, and if a great thing happens they go celebrate and drink.

C: Do you believe this is a problem they bring from back home?

S1: No, it depends who they associate with. If you have friends who are bad, you will become bad. If you have friends who are good, you will become good. When a person drinks at parties the day before work, that week they work three days because they don't feel good. Next week their bones hurt, they make up excuses until they do not work anymore and they are ruined.

C: Do you collect any plants or herbs that you use

S1: No, I don't collect but I do save them. People bring me plants or I also try to grow them. What I have most of is ruda and campana. I mostly use alba aca, romero and ruda and alta misa. Another thing that I use to treat arthritis is yucca. The person needs to boil the roots and drink it with some salt and take baths with the rest. Some people just eat the yucca and they've been cured.

C: Of all the things you tell the people to do then they can just go to the market?

S1: Yes, I send them to the markets or Guatemalan stores.

C: What other things do you have here?

S1: This is pomade that I prepare for lower back pains. I cannot tell you the ingredients.

C: What is this?

S1: That is gold dust and a magnet rock. I use it to fix candles, for work. If a person does not have a job and they want one, I'll fix a candle and they will get a job.

C: When you fix the candles, do you put the gold dust and the magnet rock, or how does it work?

S1: I pray and I turn the candle seven times clockwise and seven times counterclockwise. Then I ask San Simon in that person's name that he or she gets a job in two to three days. I cured a lady who had leprosy. Her name is Elena Ramirez from Tijuana. I have many pictures of people who I've cured if you want to see them. I had them on the walls but I took them down because people ask me why do I have does pictures there.

C: We would like to see them.

S1: Okay, some other day that you come, I'll show you the pictures.

C: What is this?

S1: Those are campañas. It's a flower that cures everything.

C: What type of flower is it?

S1: It's a campaña. I grow it at my house but you can find it anywhere. Do you have a pain?

C: Yes.

S1: I'm going to put some on you and you are going to feel it.

C: What ingredients do you put in the mix?

S1: It has alcohol, romero oil, aceite de ajonjoli, aceite de roble and aceite de palo. I made with this remedy.

C: Oh, you come up with the remedies.

S1: No, San Simon tells me to do this or to do that and I do it to cure people.

C: San Simon told you about the campaña remedy?

S1: Yes.

C: How does San Simon tell you to do it?

S1: Some people meditate to talk to San Simon, he comes to me in dreams. Around five months ago I had a dream with San Simon. I was far away in a monte. There was grass and trees and a wire fence appeared. He was sitting on a chair and he was drunk. I appeared next to him and five women were coming to see him. He told me to cover him because he did not want to see them. I asked with what and a yellow towel appeared and I covered him with that. When the women saw that he was covered, they left. He thanked and told me that he wanted to talk to me. The wired fence wasn't there anymore. He got up and told me to hold him from his arm, but he wasn't drunk anymore it seemed as if he was going to throw up. He was wearing blue pants and a small jacket, very poor. He looked 30 years old. He had brown skin, like an Indian and was growing a mustache. He asked if I knew who he was. I said no. "I'm Simon and I want to talk to you" he said. We walked and he asked me if I saw what was there. There were small fires with green candles. He told me that that arrangement was for people who need jobs. There were also a couple of women and red candles. He said that that arrangement was for love or for a couple to be reunited. They were little fuegos with sugar. There was also a cross with white salt and a black shadow on top. This was for death. We kept walking, a held him from the arm because I thought he was going to throw up or go to the restroom. He said that he did not need to throw up or go to the restroom he was just very happy to be with me. He made the gesture as if he was going to throw up and a purple candle came out. He said that's what my friend had, but now she is cured. He started running around me like a little kid because he was very happy. He tells me what is going to happen. He always tells me things in dreams but I don't always remember. In another dream, I had a black tablecloth with red on the edges. No one came to see me. I asked him why and he told me that because of the black tablecloth. He wanted me to take it off the table and but a white one. The next morning I went to down town and I bought a white silk tablecloth and I put it on the table. I told him that I had bought a new one, then a heard a scissors noise by the door as if something was cut and a lot of people started to come for consultation. If he does not like something he will tell me.

C: Do the crosses you are drawing on your hands have any significance?

S1: I always draw them when I am working and I stick pins in my fingers. I don't do it often because my son gets mad at me.

C: Why?

S1: Because he says this is bad for me.

C: But why do you do it?

S1: That's how I work.

C: Is this something that San Simon told you?

S1: Yes. I put them on my fingers to cut anything bad that a person might want to do to me.

C: Is this like flatulence?

S1: Yes, if you are a very nervous person this takes your nerves away.

C: Are you nervous right now?

S1: No, not at all. I feel as if I was among family. I talk to many interesting people and I don't get nervous. For example, when we go to buy a car, they see me and they don't seem to care or show interest, but when they see the money they show interest.

C: How do you treat diarrhea?

S1: We give them a remedy with yerba buena and granos de anise. You boil it for fifteen minutes and you drink it. You make atol de maisena.

C: So you use yerba buena and anise to make atol de maisena?

S1: Yes. This is to treat diarrhea and pain in the kidneys. A good thing for kidney problems, or if they have water in the kidneys followed by leukemia, what they can do is buy four pounds of rice and put in a container with water and let it soak and drink the water.

C: How many times a day does some one need to drink it?

S1: Six or seven. Like drinking regular water. Instead of drinking coffee or soda they need to drink this.

C: I want to ask you something. Last week my sister had food poisoning…

S1: Oh, that's indigestion. She either ate something that was bad for her stomach or she ate too much. The food was not good. When a person is sick like this, what you do is get baking soda mix it but don't let it get bubbles and have her drink it. In botanicas they sell incenso de monte. It is very good when you boil it and the person drinks it. Another

thing you can do is massage her stomach with olive oil and have her drink palo de encino. They need to burn it and put the ashes in a dish. Then you add salt and a teaspoon of olive oil.

C: Would these remedies affect her because she is pregnant?

S1: No because the remedies are natural. If it were like penicillin it would, but these won't.

C: Can the Doctor open the door because he can't breathe due to his allergies?

S1: What he needs to do is drink a Coca-Cola with a lot of lemon. He needs to have one of those Mexican coca-colas that have a lot of gas. It has to be warm you can boil it. There is an herb called pericon or you can also use three orange leafs (tips of leaf), to make tea and have the person drink it. Only the tips of the leaf can be used. I have other remedies, for example, if a woman does not want to have kids or sterilize herself what she does is get an avocado and take the seed an sun dry it. After this you take the peel off the seed and take the seed to cut it in the form of a cross and boil it. The person needs to drink this water for nine days.

C: How many times a day do they need to drink this?

S1: Two to three times.

C: To make this stronger you can boil three avocado seeds.

S1: I have another remedy for cavities or toothaches. For a toothaches what you do is get three clavos de comida (cloves) boil them for a minute. You do not want to boil them for a long time because this can break your teeth. Then take them out and wait until the water cools down so that you can make gargles with the water. Another remedy for loose teeth or teeth that are falling off, what you can do is take encino bark and boil it. You gargle with this and it will also help your teeth.

C: If a person has a very bad toothache or cavity, can this person just put the clover in the mouth?

S1: No because this will break the teeth. What people put in there is tobacco. Tobacco takes the toothache away.

C: Do you have something for gums"?

S1: For gum inflammation or sores what you can do is take baking soda with lemon and rub it where it hurts. This cleans your teeth and takes off all the inflammation. Another good thing is canserina and arnica. You can make a tea from these two herbs and this will cure internal wounds or scars. For example, if I had a car accident and had pain inside my body, I would drink this tea or I can also use a warm cloth with this water and apply it to my body where I have the bruises.